

# Mesa Elementary School

## October 21, 2005

# THE MESA MESSENGER



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

We recently completed our school goals for the 2005 – 2006 school year. Academic achievement is always a priority, along with school safety and building a positive school climate. The Boulder Valley School District with community input from the Ad Hoc Task Force has spent a great deal of time identifying characteristics of the **New Century Graduate**. This work will continue to be a priority for Boulder Valley. This year the graduation requirements were revised to address specific changes recommended by the Ad Hoc Task Force. The new requirements were approved by the Board of Education and will take effect beginning with the Class of 2009. At Mesa we are beginning to integrate these expectations into our organizational goal.

In addition to the knowledge and skills required of BVSD graduates, the Ad Hoc Task Force recommended we promote the characteristics illustrated in the poster printed below. The Mesa School Improvement Team (SIT) has had many discussions and invested a great deal of effort to promote positive behaviors within our student population. We have implemented **Bully Proofing** and **Caught Being Good**, two programs that promote an overall atmosphere

supporting the characteristics of the new century graduate which are evident in our school. The goals written at Mesa emphasize respecting differences and good citizenship. We promote a spirit of contribution to the good of the school and encourage volunteerism. We expect the future citizens of our community to continue to be well-educated, "good people" who genuinely care about others.

A sincere **THANK YOU** to Mike Barnes, Erin Moran, Mansour Alipour-Fard, Nancy Printz, Stephen Topping, Betsy Puls and all Mesa staff for their contributions and intense involvement as we discussed, analyzed and developed a **well-thought-out** school improvement plan. This plan will be available on the Mesa website soon.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina  
Principal

## NOTE MEETING DATE CHANGE FOR SIT

The monthly meeting for Mesa's School Improvement Team (SIT) has been changed from the first Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month. The time and location of the meeting have not changed: 4:00-5:30 PM in the Principal's Office. Any interested person is encouraged to attend. Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 8.

## LOST AND FOUND

Parents: Please label items that come to school with your children. If there is a name in the back of a jacket or sweater or in a lunchbox, we will return the item to the student. If there is no name, the item will be donated to charity every other month. Be sure to check our lost-and-found when you come to school. It is kept in the alcove by the stairs on the way to the library.

## SOAP IS SLIP SLIDING AWAY

We have gone through three containers of soap in one bathroom in the last two weeks! Students are emptying the liquid soap on the floor, making it slippery and difficult to clean. For the safety of the children, we will be removing the soap containers from the problem bathroom and giving teachers hand sanitizer to use in the classrooms so this situation can be monitored.

## CU SCIENCE WIZARDS SHOW

The next CU Wizards FREE science show will be held this Saturday, October 22, at 9:30 AM on the CU Boulder Campus in Chemistry 140. Dr. Veronica Bierbaum will be presenting "Light, Energy...Reaction: The Magic of Chemistry!" CU would love to have you and your family join in the fun, exciting and interactive exploration of chemical reactions. Parking is FREE in Lots 308 and 436 on the campus. To find a campus map and to access the year-long schedule of Wizards' shows, visit: <http://www.colorado.edu/physics/Web/wizards/cuwizards.html>. If you have any questions about the program, call or email Anna Clark at 303-492-5011 or [anna.clark@jila.colorado.edu](mailto:anna.clark@jila.colorado.edu).

## MUSIC NEWS

### SARAH KNOEBEL, MUSIC SPECIALIST

Third grade students have been studying the recorder in music class. They will have a concert on Friday, October 28, during their

music time: Converse 8:45 AM-9:15 AM  
Manning 9:15 AM-9:45 AM

Parents, family and friends are welcome to attend!

The M&M's will be making sock puppets for one of their songs in the winter concert. There will be a sock puppet-making session Friday morning, November 18, and it would be great to have a few parent helpers. Also, if any Mesa parents have materials to contribute to decorate the puppets (ribbon, buttons, eyes, fabric scraps...), please bring them to the music room anytime before November 18. Thank you for your help!

## BIKE COLLECTION A BIG SUCCESS

Thanks, Mesa! Share-a-Gift collected 24 bikes and many helmets from generous Mesa families. These will be distributed to children in need during the holiday season. If you did not get to bring a bike and would still like to donate one, see Cathy Conery in the Literacy Room.



**FYI:** Share-a-Gift will begin their annual book and toy collection the Monday after Thanksgiving.

## WORN ATHLETIC SHOES CAN STILL BE RECYCLED

Thank you for all the shoes brought to Mesa during shoe collection. If you still have shoes to recycle, you can take them to Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM) at 5030 Old Pearl Street. The site is open 9 AM-4 PM Monday-Saturday. These shoes can be turned into surfaces for playgrounds and athletic fields. Call 303-444-6634 for directions or more information.

## PICTURE RETAKES AVAILABLE AT THE LIFE-TOUCH STUDIO

If you missed picture retakes at Mesa, you can still get a photo taken of your child at the Denver Lifetouch Studio located at 7000 North Broadway,

Suite 207. Take the Broadway exit south off US 36, go one block, turn left at the light, and the office is on the right side on the east end of the building. Studio retake days are:

10/22 9AM-3PM 10/24 3PM-6PM  
11/19 9AM-3PM 11/21 3PM-6PM

If you need more information, call Lifetouch Customer Service at 888-974-6867.

**KICAPUT SINGERS AND DANCERS**

These wonderful Yup'ik (Eskimo) performers,



from the southwest region of Alaska, came to Mesa on Friday, October 7. The entire school enjoyed their dances and music.

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (PEN)**

Parenting these days can be very rewarding but can bring some of life's greatest challenges. The Parent Engagement Network (PEN) is a Boulder Valley School District parent-based organization, created to bring together the community via interactive gatherings that address a variety of parenting issues. The purpose of these gatherings is to help educate parents on topics involving youth and to encourage

relationship-building, to create a caring and safe community for youth inside and outside of the school environment. More information about PEN can be found on their website: [www.parentengagementnetwork.com](http://www.parentengagementnetwork.com)

Wednesday, October 26, PEN will offer an important training opportunity: "Parents are the Power—Parent Engagement and Prevention." Make the connection between intentional parenting and prevention at PEN's annual orientation training, sponsored by BVSD and the Boulder County Prevention Connection. Learn how to build assets and reduce risks, increase communication with youth and other parents, recognize warning signs of substance use, understand the stages of substance use and access local resources. The training starts with networking at 8:30 AM and ends at 2:30 PM. The training is free; a continental breakfast and box lunch will be provided. The location is the Boulder County Recycle Center, 1901 63rd Street. Continuing education credits are available. Space is limited, so please RSVP to Betsy Fox at [bfox@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:bfox@co.boulder.co.us) or call her at 303-441-3981. Additional PEN offerings through May 2006 can be found on Page 5.

**SHARE-A-COAT AND BOOK DRIVE BEGIN**

Please bring in those too-small, somewhat-worn but still-warm coats to the annual Share-a-Coat program. The Boulder Valley Rotary Club, with cleaning services donated by Art Cleaners in Boulder, collects coats from many local schools, cleans and distributes them in mid-December to families with children who are in need. Coats for both children and adults are needed. The collection box is currently across from the Mesa office, and the last pick-up date will be December 2. In addition, you can donate used children's storybooks and textbooks.

The top three schools (in terms of number of coats collected per student) will receive cash prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 respectively. Thank you for your support!

**LITERACY NEWS**

The International Dyslexia Association's 56th Annual Conference will be in Denver on November 9 -12. It is being held at the Adams Mark Hotel. Individuals presenting at this conference are world-renowned experts in their fields.

If you have a block of time, there is a way for parents to support literacy. Volunteer jobs vary from assisting with registration, to room

monitors, to directional assistance and a variety of other tasks. No specific skills are required. Feel free to bring a friend.

If you know anyone interested in getting a better understanding of dyslexia and related reading challenges, please invite them to attend this conference. Visit [www.interdys.org](http://www.interdys.org) to view the conference program and find out more about the International Dyslexia Association.

If you have questions about work/study or volunteer opportunities, please contact one of the volunteer co-chairpersons: Lynn Doughman, [lynndo@viawest.net](mailto:lynndo@viawest.net), 970-622-8098, or Julia Bottom, [jbottom@highstream.net](mailto:jbottom@highstream.net), 303-651-1372

## PE NEWS

### JACY BRUNO, PE SPECIALIST

Thank you to everyone involved in the Magnificent Mile Runs that took place last week at Fairview High School. The runs would not have been successful without great parent support, teacher support and, of course, our wonderful 1st through 5th grade runners! The students did an amazing job and we are very proud of them. Thanks again to all involved with this wonderful event.

## HEAD LICE HAPPENS

Head lice are a common problem wherever children congregate; they are NOT CAUSED BY A LACK OF CLEANLINESS. They are communicable, inconvenient and annoying, but they pose no real health hazard. Lice cannot fly or jump but are passed by head-to-head contact by sharing items such as combs, coats, hats, Halloween head coverings, etc. A school nearby has had head lice and asked us to provide the Mesa community with information from BVSD Health Services.

Adult lice are small sucking insects that are rarely seen, but the eggs, or nits, appear on the hair shaft as tiny white or gray beads that stick firmly to the hair and are not easily removed. The most common symptom is itching, usually at the hairline on the back of the neck or behind the ears.

Lice must be treated with a pediculicide (lice-killing) shampoo or rinse, or with an approved oil treatment, in conjunction with cleaning procedures to destroy nits that might be present on clothing, bedding, furniture, carpets or stuffed animals.

If you suspect or have discovered head lice, please call before sending your child to school. If lice is discovered on a child while at school, the parent or guardian will be notified and the child will be sent home for treatment. The child may not return to school until treatment has been completed and ALL NITS removed.

## TAG TALK

### BETSY PULS, TAG COORDINATOR

Chess Club and Chess League will be starting at Mesa soon!

CHESS CLUB will start the first Wednesday after Thanksgiving in the library after school at 3:05 PM until 4:15 PM. Everyone is welcome; beginners are especially invited. All grade-level students have participated in the past. We play for fun and food snacks. Richele Mein and Laura Spicer have agreed to serve as parent coordinators; anyone else who wants to join us is certainly welcome. Just get in touch with me, the TAG Coordinator at Mesa. In order to pay for the snacks (healthy ones) we provide, each child who joins Chess Club is asked to pay \$5.00 toward that cost. Of course, you can provide your own child with personal snacks if you desire. See you on November 30<sup>th</sup>!

CHESS LEAGUE begins October 27! Any 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade student who wants to be on this competitive team should contact either Mr. Medina, me or Mark Kilmer, our parent coordinator, as soon as possible. Chess League is composed of teams from various BVSD schools who play for positions and trophy competition. Last year, Mesa came in first place overall in BVSD. Children play each other for ranks in competition. So hurry, hurry, to let us know if you want to participate in this group.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS need parent volunteers to help teach the groups at Mesa. If you have not already contacted the school, please alert me to your interest or let Mesa's PTO President, Jan North, know.

SCIENCE FACILITIES need expanding at Mesa. A group of "think-tank" volunteers are needed to help me and Susan Wortman (parent volunteer) figure out how to expand the science teaching facilities here at Mesa. There are some grants for which Mesa may qualify. American children need more exposure at a young age to basic science. Certainly the children themselves are interested, and schools need to catch their interest at this young age. A former IBM executive has stated the U.S. is one-quarter million people shy of science and math teachers, if we expect to have an adequate base for science learning and a scientifically-literate, future U.S. population. Whether as a teacher or as a practicing scientist, who is going to help lead a technological/scientific America in the future? Why not have a few of those people be Mesa students? Please contact me through my email and leave me your name, phone number and email contact information.

Betsy Puls, Mesa TAG Coordinator  
[betsy.puls@bvsd.org](mailto:betsy.puls@bvsd.org)



# Mesa Elementary School October 21, 2005

**A Triple 'A' School**  
**Academics**  
**Arts**  
**Athletics**

**Winner of the:**  
**??John J. Irwin Excellence Award**  
**1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and**  
**2003/2004**  
**??Kennedy Center Schools of Distinction Award**  
**for Arts Education**  
**??Colorado Department of Education**  
**2004 Accomplished School Award**

Principal: Mike Medina  
Secretaries: Judy Bullert and Emily Robbie  
1575 Lehigh Street  
Boulder, CO 80305  
Phone: 303-494-4704 Fax: 303-494-5908  
E-mail: mike.medina@bvsd.k12.co.us

We're on the web  
[www.bvsd.k12.co.us/schools/mesa/](http://www.bvsd.k12.co.us/schools/mesa/)

**MESA CALENDAR**

Sun. Oct. 30 End Daylight Savings Time

Mon. Oct. 31 Halloween Parade and Class Parties

Tues. Nov. 1 6:15 PM PTO

Tues. Nov. 8 4:00 PM SIT

Thurs. Nov. 10 End Trimester 1

Fri. Nov. 11 NO SCHOOL

Fri. Nov. 18 Report cards go home

Mon. Nov. 28 Open Enrollment forms available

# PTO CORNER

It took many parent and teacher volunteers to make Fall Fest a success, but we did it. Despite fewer enrolled students this year, gross proceeds matched last year. Everyone had a lot of fun and parents did a terrific job cleaning up. Thank you!

Thanks to the determination of fourth grader **Emma Koltun-Baker**, and the support of Mesa Parent **Cece Bloomfield**, Popcorn Friday is returning to Mesa! On Friday, November 4th Cece and a few parent volunteers will pop, bag and deliver \$.25 bags of popcorn to Mesa students. Emma and her friends will be putting up a parent volunteer sign up sheet outside the office and reminder signs in the hallways.

Besides organizing fundraising and school spirit activities, Mesa's PTO also provides information on important school and community issues. Recently, Mesa Parent **Debbie Gould** agreed to be Impact on Education's parent liaison. Impact on Education, an independent, non-profit organization, leverages community resources to impact student learning, create opportunities and build support for public education. In 2004/2005, Impact on Education distributed over \$454,000 to fund its programs, gifts and scholarships.

Debbie's role will include ensuring the Mesa school community knows of available grant & recognition opportunities, providing Impact on Education with feedback on their programs, performing outreach, and bringing the school community information regarding public policy issues that influence public education. Debbie will be keeping us up-to-date via the newsletter and PTO meetings.

Impact on Education urges us to vote on Tuesday, November 1. More information about Impact on Education can be found on their website: [www.impactoneducation.org](http://www.impactoneducation.org). You can also talk to any PTO member.

We hope you will join us at our next PTO meeting, Tuesday, November 1st at 6:15 PM.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**WANTED: Donation of 1-2 wagons for Grade 1. These will be used to cart lunches from the classrooms to the cafeteria. Contact the Mesa office for more information: 303-494-4704.**  
\*\*\*\*\*